

Belle Case LaFollette

Belle Case LaFollette was born in Juneau County, Wisconsin in 1859. At age 16, she moved to Madison and attended the University of Wisconsin. There she met Bob LaFollette. Following graduation, Belle taught in Baraboo while Bob earned his Law Degree and became Dane County District Attorney. Soon after, they married and established their home in Madison.

Following the birth of their first daughter Fola, Belle began taking classes to earn her law degree at Wisconsin College of Law. She became the first woman to graduate from Law School in Wisconsin. Although she did not practice law, she served as Bob's advisor for 40 years. After Bob's election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Belle served as his secretary and administrative assistant.

In 1900, Belle Case LaFollette became First Lady of Wisconsin. In 1905, the LaFollettes returned to Washington, D.C while Bob served in the U.S. Senate. Belle was an activist on issues such as child labor reform and race relations. One of her most significant roles was helping to achieve the women's right to vote.

Belle Case LaFollette died on August 18, 1931.

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